

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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CORNELL UNIVERSITY AWARDED \$1.1 MILLION TO HELP DISABLED WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that a partnership led by Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations has been awarded \$1.1 million by the U.S. Department of Education under the Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers Program. The grant is expected to be renewed each of the next four years, bringing the total funding to \$5.5 million.

"Advancements in information technology now offer tremendous opportunities for people with disabilities," said Hinchey. "This program that Cornell will be heading up will make these important tools more readily available to people in the New York's 26th congressional district and throughout Region II."

The Northeast Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center will provide information, training and technical assistance to educational entities in Region II (New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) on the procurement and use of accessible information technology for students and employees with disabilities. The plans for delivering these services involve effective use of existing networks and collaborations with regional partners and organizations. The Center will be a collaborative effort with several partners, including the New York State Office of the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities; AccessPoint Solutions in New Jersey; the State University of New York at Buffalo; the University of Puerto Rico and the University of the Virgin Islands.

"We are thrilled with this news," said project director Susanne Bruyere. "This funding will make a significant contribution to the access of technology for people with disabilities in our region."

The Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers Program is one of eight administered by the Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. NIDRR's objective is to support and coordinate research and its utilization to improve the lives of people of all ages with physical and mental disabilities.